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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,716	12/05/2003	Renato Colombo	9331.18512	1740
26308	7590	09/27/2005	EXAMINER	
RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C. POST OFFICE BOX 26618 MILWAUKEE, WI 53226			DEVORE, PETER T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/728,716	Applicant(s) COLOMBO, RENATO	
	Examiner Peter T. deVore	Art Unit 3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 18-24 and 27-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 18-24 and 27-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because it is unclear whether the sleeves and conduits are intended to be positively recited elements. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 20-24 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "said conduit" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arn.

Assuming that the conduits and sleeves are not positively recited elements in claim 12, the Arn reference discloses a valve body 12 comprising an inlet and outlet (16 and 18) and first and second integral couplings (proximate reference numeral 10 on Figure 1 and the identical coupling on the opposite side), and which couplings are capable of being connected to conduits having the same outer diameter as the couplings via malleable sleeves. Regarding claims 13-15, the valve body includes top entry ball valve 21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-15, 20-24, and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arn in view of Cannon.

Assuming that the conduits and sleeves are positively recited elements in claim 12, the Arn reference discloses a valve body 12 comprising an inlet and outlet (16 and 18) and first and second integral couplings (proximate reference numeral 10 on Figure 1 and the identical coupling on the opposite side), but remains silent as to how the valve couplings are connected to conduits in a fluid system. However, the Cannon reference discloses the use of malleable sleeves 1 to efficiently connect two conduits having the same outside diameter. Therefore, it would have been obvious to connect the couplings

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of the Arn device to conduits having the same outside diameter for efficient connection of the valve to a fluid system. Regarding claims 13-15, the valve body includes top entry ball valve 21. Regarding claims 20, 21, and 27, the Arn reference discloses a valve 10 having a valve body 12 comprising an input and output opening (16 and 18) and first and second integral tubular couplings (proximate reference numeral 10 on Figure 1 and the identical coupling on the other side), but remains silent as to how the valve couplings are connected to conduits in a fluid system. However, the Cannon reference discloses the use of malleable sleeves 1 to efficiently connect two conduits having the same inside and outside diameter. Therefore, it would have been obvious to connect the couplings of the Arn device to conduits having the same inside and outside diameter for efficient connection of the valve to a fluid system. Regarding claims 22-24, the valve body includes top entry ball valve 21.

Claims 18, 19, 28, and 29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arn in view of Cannon as applied to claims 12 and 20 supra, and further in view of Scherer.

The Arn reference discloses a valve as discussed supra but does not disclose that the valve body is annealed. However, the Scherer reference discloses the practice of annealing valve bodies to provide resistance to fracture (see col. 1, lines 44-48). It would have been obvious to anneal the Arn valve body (and integral couplings) in view of Scherer to provide resistance to fracture.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-15, 18-24, and 27-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

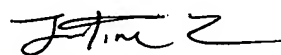
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter T. deVore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4884. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pd Pd


JUSTINE R. YU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

9/26/05